(b) if so, the findings of such study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The India Meteorological Department has examined the reports about the effect of wind mills on rainfall. In this regrad, they have stated that structure such as wind mills do not affect rainfall.

Bill to prescribe limit of construction and mining work in Himalayan States

†1636. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prescribe any limit for construction and mining work in Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and other Himalayan States in order to minimise threat of natural calamities in the region;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to move a Bill to prescribe limit of construction and mining work; and

(c) if so, by when the Bill is likely to be moved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Ministry of Mines is responsible for administration of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR) Act which provides for development and regulation of mines and minerals under the control of the Union. Section 18 of MMDR Act enjoins upon the Central Government to take all necessary steps for the conservation and systematic development of minerals and for the protection of the environment, to insure conservation and systematic development of minerals and protection of environment, all leassees of major minerals are required to get the mining plan approved, before actual mining can take place. The mining plan *inter-alia* includes assessment of impact of mining activity on forest, land surface and environment including air and water pollution, details of scheme of restoration of the area by afforestation, land reclamation, use of pollution control devices and such other measures as may be

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

directed by the Central Government or the State Government from time to time. Also mining lease holders are required to obtain appropriate clearances from Ministry of Environment and Forests and mining activities in ecologically fragile regions are subject to the environment statutes and direction of Courts.

At present no Bill for prescribing limit of construction and mining work in Himalayan States is under consideration of the Ministry of Mines.

Chromite reserves in the country

1637. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate chromite reserves in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken for the purpose of exploitation of chromite in Orissa and other chromite reserve States during the last three years; and

(c) the details of policy adopted by Government for the proper exploitation of chromite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) As per the information available in the Indian Mineral Year Book published by the Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines, reserves of chromite have been identified in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. *In situ* reserves of chromite (State-wise) in the country as on 1.4.2000 are as under:

State	Reserves (In '000 tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh	187
Jharkhand	466
Karnataka	2114
Maharashtra	543
Manipur	92
Orissa	110692
Tamil Nadu	282